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mould needs simply to be thoroughly heated before it is filled with metal in order that the latter may flow into all portions of it. After it has become cold it is softened and carefully broken away from the casting.

— Capt. G. J. Belknap, of the U. S. steamer, *Alaska*, has been taking soundings in the Pacific ocean off Callao bay during a run of 112 miles. At a distance of 102 miles from the shore he found a depth of 3368 fathoms, of nearly four statute miles. That was the deepest depression he could find. The casts brought up clay and greenish sand, the bottom temperature being about 34° Fahr.

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PROCEEDINGS OF SCIENTIFIC SOCIETIES.

Boston Society of Natural History, Oct. 5.—A paper on the species of Orangs, by Mr. F. A. Lucas, was read, and Mr. Burgess described the true mouth structure of the "water-tiger" (Dytiscus).

Academy of Natural Sciences of Philadelphia, March 8, 1881.—Professor Angelo Heilprin delivered the introductory to his course of lectures on invertebrate palæontology. A paper entitled "Structure, affinities and species of Scolopendrella," by John A. Ryder, was presented for publication.

March 15.—Professor Henry Carvill Lewis delivered the introductory to his course of lectures on determinative mineralogy. Mr. Theo. D. Rand called attention to microscopic preparations of minerals. Professor Lewis spoke of a specimen of smoky quartz containing water. Professor Heilprin made some remarks on *Nummulites raymondiopsis* and *Opercularia rotilla*. Mr. Reuben Haines made a communication on impurities in drinking water and the modes of determining them. Remarks on the same subject were made by Messrs. McCook, Heilprin and Morris.

March 22.—Mr. J. A. Ryder gave some of the results of his investigations on the development of the oyster. Dr. G. H. Horn spoke of the larva of a beetle, *Goes perverulentes*.

April 5.—Professor Angelo Heilprin called attention to special characters in a specimen of Spirifer. Mr. J. A. Ryder made a statement with regard to certain disputed points in the organization of embryo fishes.

April 19.—Dr. Henry C. Chapman gave the results of his dissection of two hippopotami. Mr. Ryder spoke of the development of the nucleus in the ova of fishes and Mollusca. Mr. Tryon read extracts from a letter received from Mr. Hemphill relating to the habits of west coast limpets. Dr. G. A. König called attention to Reinsch's work on the micro-structure of Permian and Triassic coal. The subject was farther discussed by Professor Heilprin. A paper entitled "Observations on Planorbis," by R. E. C. Stearns, was presented for publication.

April 26.—Mr. Ryder spoke of the development of the American four-spined stickleback. A paper entitled "List of the fishes collected by Mr. W. J. Fisher upon the coasts of Lower California, 1876–77, with descriptions of new species," by W. N. Lockington, was presented for publication.

May 3.—Mr. Ryder described the spinning organ of the male stickleback. Dr. G. H. Horn made remarks on the classification of the Carabidæ.

May 10.—Professor H. C. Lewis called attention to a collection of beautiful concretions, and considered the mode of formation. Mr. Tryon read an extract from a letter by Henry Hemphill describing the arrival of a species of Glycimeris from Washington Territory. Mr. Thomas Meehan spoke of the numerical branching of Ampelopsis. Rev. Henry C. McCook made a communication on the spinning work of spiders, its nomenclature and classification.

May 17.—Papers on *Quercus rubra*, *Q. durandii* and *Rhus cotinoides*, by S. B. Buckley, were presented for publication. Professor Heilprin described certain unique specimens of Ammonite and Trigonia. Professor Lewis made further remarks on the concretions presented at a former meeting. Mr. Edw. Potts exhibited a specimen of Stapelia illustrating cleistogamous fertilization.

May 24.—A paper entitled as follows, was presented for publication: "Revision of the Palæocrinoidæ—Part II. Family Sphæroidocrinidæ, including the sub-families Platycrinidæ, Rhodocrinidæ and Actinocrinidæ," by Chas. Wachsmuth and Frank Springer. Mr. Thos. Meehan spoke of the sex of flowers in *Fritillaria atropurpurea*. Dr. Jos. Leidy considered the views of certain European naturalists regarding his genus Ouramœba. Rev. Dr. McCook spoke of the stridulating sound made by ants and how it might be produced. Remarks on the habits of the white ant were made by Drs. Leidy and McCook.

May 31.—The Rev. Dr. McCook read a report of the work done during the season in the department of instruction. A paper entitled "Observation on the Hippopotamus," by Dr. Henry C. Chapman, was presented for publication, the author giving verbally the substance of the communication. Mr. Edw. Potts exhibited a beautiful living specimen of Pyrophorus.

June 14.—A paper entitled "Notes on the Tertiary Geology of the Southern United States," by Angelo Heilprin, was presented for publication. Dr. Horn made some remarks on the entomological work of the late Baron Chaudoir, and then spoke of his, Dr. Horn's, arrangement of the Carabidæ. Mr. Potts defined the genera Heteromeinia and Carterella, and asked for material for illustration of the history of fresh-water sponges. Dr. Anders spoke of his observations on the evaporation of moisture from vegetation, the soil and water.

June 21.—Mr. Meehan spoke of the sudden appearance of modifications in plants, illustrating his remarks by special reference to the presence or absence of the thorns of roses.

July 5.—A paper entitled "The snare of the ray spider, *Epeira radiosa*, a new form of orb-web," by Rev. H. C. McCook, D.D., was presented for publication. Mr. Meehan noted the discovery of *Lilium martagon* for the first time in the United States, and also spoke of the parasitic character of the Rocky mountain snow plant. In continuation he made some remarks on what might be called "floral clock-work," with special reference to the opening and closing of the flowers of *Talinum teretifolium.*

July 19.—A paper entitled "A revision of the Cis-Mississippi Tertiary Pectens of the United States," by Angelo Heilprin, was presented for publication.

July 26.—A note from Edw. Potts was read defining a new species of fresh-water sponge of the genus Carterella.

Aug. 2.—A paper entitled "Remarks on the molluscan genera Hippagus, Verticordia and Pecchiola," by Angelo Heilprin, was presented for publication.

Sept. 13.—Mr. Ryder gave some of the results of his studies of embryo oysters.

Sept. 20.—A paper entitled "Note on the approximate position of the Eocene deposits of Maryland," by Angelo Heilprin, was presented for publication.

Sept. 27.—Mr. Ryder spoke of the anatomy of *Arca pexata*, and also considered Balfour's and His and Rauber's views regarding the growth of embryo fishes.

Oct. 4.—The Rev. Dr. McCook explained how the orb-weaving spiders prepared their webs. Mr. Ryder spoke of a persistent cavity in the germinal disc of fishes, and its connection with the blood-vessel system.

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SELECTED ARTICLES IN SCIENTIFIC SERIALS.

AMERICAN JOURNAL OF SCIENCE, October.—Cause of the arid climate of the western portion of the United States, by C. E. Dutton. Embryonic forms of Trilobites from the Primordial rocks of Troy, N. Y., by S. W. Ford. Thickness of the ice-sheet at any latitude, by W. J. McGee. Marine fauna occupying the outer banks off the southern coast of New England, by A. E. Verrill.

THE GEOLOGICAL MAGAZINE, September.—The cause of the Mammoth's extinction, by H. H. Howorth. Absence of joint-structure at great depths, by W. O. Crosby.

ZEITSCHRIFT FÜR WISSENSCHAFTLICHE ZOOLOGIE, August 19.—Locomotion and organ of locomotion of *Cyclostoma elegans*, and of other native snails, by H. Simroth. On the developmental history of the skull of Anura, by Ph. Stohr. The division of monothalomous Rhizopods, by A. Graber. On the development of *Neretina fluviatilis*, by F. Blochmann. On the allantois of man, by W. Krause.